national priority with a long term impact, size or complexity that are vital to the national security and the future well being and economic growth of the country. The CSIR's scientific and technological annual average output. Comprises publications of nearly 2000 esearch/technical/learned/papers, development of 100 new technologies and signing of 200 agreements for new industrial production in diverse areas.

(d) Does not arise.

Loss due to corrosion of scarce materials

775. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country lose nearly Rs. 13,000 crore annually due to corrosion of metals, alloys and other materials and their replacement;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken/proposed for application of technologies developed in the country to check corrosion of scarce materials;

(c) the details of action plan for adoption of technologies developed indigeniously to deal with corrosion problem; and

(d) the present status of action plan?

THE MINISTER FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Generally, it is estimated that a country's loss due to corrosion is of the order of 2 to 5% off its GNP depending on its level of industrial development and its geographical location. Thus, based on India's GNP in 1996-97, the corrosion loss even at *2%* of GNP will be around Rs. 25,000 crore.

(b) to (d) Several R&D institutions such as CSIR, DRDO, ONGC, Atomic Energy are working towards corrosion evaluation and mitigation. However, more specifically the Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CECRI), Karaikudi of CSIR as a very active R&D programme on Corrosion. It has set up an atmospheric corrosion testing station at, Mandapam in Tamil Nadu, which, being a wind swept place with high levels of humidity, temperature and salinity, is an ideal place for testing the levels of corrosion of metals and alloys and performance of protective coatings. Besides the Institute has over the years developed over 75 potective coatings and processes for corrosion prevention and licensed these to over 150 parties. The Institute is also helping the industries with corrosion audit studies and preventive measures.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

72.00 *Noon*

Report and Accounts (1997-98) of the National Coorperative consumers Federation of India Ltd. New Delhi and related Papers.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Thirty-third Annual Report and Accounts of the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the above Federation. [Placed in Library. See No. Lt. 1704/98]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Railways.

II. Report and Accounts (1996—98) of the Indian Railway welfare Organisation, New Delhi and related Papers.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, I lay on the Table—

I. (i) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Railways Notification G.S.R. 410 (E), dated the 24th July, 1998, publishing the Railway Passengers (Cancellation of ticket and refund of fare) Rules, 1998, under section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989 [Placed in Library. See No. Lt. 1579/98]

(ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Railways Notification G.S.R. 563 (E), dated the 8th September, 1998 publishing the